



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RP

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/493,313	01/28/2000	Tomas Brenner	304	2073

7590 09/11/2003
CIENA Corporation
Legal Department
1201 Winterson Rd.
Linthicum, MD 21090

EXAMINER

KANG, JULIANA K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2874

DATE MAILED: 09/11/2003

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/493,313

Applicant(s)

BRENNER ET AL.

Examiner

Juliana K. Kang

Art Unit

2874

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 12 and 13 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 January 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION
BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: in page 14 line 8, the third circulator port 510-3 is mentioned but Fig.7 do not include the reference number 510-3. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1 and 8 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 1 recites the limitation "said detected optical signal powers" in last two lines. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It appears that the limitation "an optical signal power" recited in lines 11 and 12 should be corrected to "an optical signal powers." This objection also applies to claim 8. Appropriate corrections are required.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In page 14 line 5, page 15 line 1, page 16 lines 1 and 2, the reference numbers 133-1 should be corrected to 135-1.

Appropriate corrections are required. Applicant's assistance is requested to correct any other errors that may be noticed in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-11 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections, set forth in this Office action.

5. Claims 12 and 13 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: there is no prior art of record that teaches or reasonably suggest the claimed optical device for providing channel signal power equalization in wavelength division multiplexed optical communication systems using a feedback circuit to adjust each variable optical attenuators that are coupled to each of a plurality of groups of optical signals as set forth in claims 1, 8, 12 and 13.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kosaka (U.S. Patent 5,986,800) teach an optical amplification apparatus for adjusting optical power of wavelength-multiplexed signal light at respective wavelengths. Archambault (U.S. Patent 6,567,196 B1) teach a dense WDM optical multiplexer and demultiplexer. Takeda et al (U.S. Patent 6,091,538) teach an equalizing optical apparatus. Kosaka, Archambault and Takeda et al do not teach an optical performance monitor circuit supplying a feedback signal to variable optical attenuators that are coupled to each of a plurality of groups of optical signals.


Art Unit: 2874

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Juliana K. Kang whose telephone number is (703) 305-6259. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays and Thursdays 7:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rod Bovernick can be reached on (703) 308-4819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-3072.


Juliana Kang
September 4, 2003